



African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* as a resident in Soutpansberg, Northern Province, South Africa

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L'Eurylaime du Cap *Smithornis capensis* a récemment été découvert dans le Soutpansberg, Province du Nord, Afrique du Sud, où il pourrait nicher comme hôte d'été. Des observations récentes, faites dans une forêt près de Louis Trichardt, semblent indiquer que l'espèce est résidente dans la région. Le statut taxonomique de cette population isolée mérite d'être examiné.

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* was recently found to occur in the Soutpansberg, Northern Province, South Africa, where it was suggested to be seasonal⁶. Subsequently, it has been discovered at a forest near Louis Trichardt (site 3 in Symes & Perrin⁶) in winter. On 21 June 2000 at least two were recorded in Roodewaal forest (23°00'S 30°01'E, where heard at 08.00 hrs; and 23°01'S 30°02'E, where seen and heard at 12.00 hrs). On 10 October 2000 attempts were made to locate these individuals, using playback at various sites. A male was attracted on one occasion (08.45 hrs), but did not call. On 25 May 2001, another was heard on the south side of Roodewaal forest, a site where it had not been previously recorded.

These data suggest that African Broadbill may be resident in the Soutpansberg during winter (May–June), and thus throughout the year. The forest is classified as re-growth forest³ and the canopy seldom exceeds 10 m. During winter the understorey becomes particularly dry. The bird-species community includes those recorded in higher altitude Afromontane forest and lower altitude bushveld and re-growth forest in the region⁷. Further research into the status of African Broadbill here is required¹. In addition, the taxonomic status of those in Soutpansberg, which is separated by 250–300 km from the nearest known population, should be investigated. It is possible that an undescribed form occurs here. Otherwise, contrary to the suggestion that they are of the subspecies *conjunctus*⁶, it is more likely that *cryptoleucus* is involved⁴. Based on biogeographic evidence, this population more likely has affinities with those occurring to the east and south-east in Mozambique, Swaziland and KwaZulu-Natal^{1,2,5}.

References

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